

Exhibit 146

Sewer/Water Infrastructure Management

Edit Actions Window Help



Work Order Data Entry

SR #	3015687	Wo#	4	Priority	1	Radio #		Wtr/Swr	W	WO Stat	CAN	WO Recd Dt	00/00/00 00:00	Orig Prob Cd	1161
Prob Cd / Primary Ind:												742	Y		
Street #	5748	Frac		Dir		Street Name	DESERT VIEW	Sfx	DR	Suite#		Juris	SD	Data Steward	% St: PALOMINO
Inter:															
Loc Desc:												STREET...LIFTING ASPHALT			
Job Desc:															
Special Inst:															
Field Bk Pg/Grid:												C12S			
Thomas Bros Pg:												1248A2			
Service Area:												2			
ES Service Area:												W			
Plant Service Area:												MI			
Assign Dt:															
WO Gen Dt:												10/03/07 07:11			

USA# Exp Dt: Fac Typ: Fac Seq# Request: JOYCE Ph# 858 454-8945

Work Cd	ESINV	Action Cd		Service Request Comments			
ST	00/00/00 00:00	End	00/00/00 00:00	JO #		Emp	
Hrs							

WO Comments: Page 1 of 1

Creation Dt/Tm:

Last Upd Dt/ID:

Completed by Radio # Re-Open: Total Crew Hours:

Referral Priority: Ref to Radio: Work Code: Fac Type: Fac Seq #

Job Desc:

Last Update Dt: 10/03/07 7:23 Last Update ID: D25 Last Batch Update Dt: Last Batch Update ID:

WO Completed Dt: Completed By:

SR #

3015687

Creation DT/ID

10/03/07 07:23

Last Update DT/ID

10/03/07 07:23 D25

SR Comments

GIVEN TO CITY ENGINEER, ROBERT HAWK.....SD

Page 1 of 3

3015687

10/03/07 07:11

10/03/07 07:12 D25

SR Comments

RECALLED BY JOYCE, CLMS STILL LEAKING, & GROUND MOVING.....SD

Page 1 of 3

3015687

10/01/07 11:45

10/01/07 11:45 J9L

SR Comments

PAGED 1942...JKL

Page 1 of 3

3015687

10/01/07 11:36

10/01/07 11:36 XZP

SR Comments

CLAIMS IS NOT THE HYDRANT, AND IS HIGH PRIORITY...ST LEAK...XP

Page 1 of 3

Exhibit 147

Johnny Mitchell - Fwd: Water draining to cracks

From: Jim Fisher
To: Johnny Mitchell; Michael Basom
Date: 10/3/2007 8:38 AM
Subject: Fwd: Water draining to cracks

Johnny/Mike, Please have Tutti check this out and report back her findings ASAP. Thanks Jim

>>> Jamal Batta 10/3/2007 8:33 AM >>>
Stan:

I am not on site yet. Please send a crew to the site to verify if this is related to the hi-line or not.

Thanks, jamal,
=====
=====

>>> <tac@san.rr.com> 10/3/2007 7:59 AM >>>
Rob,

There is water flowing down the gutter and into the open cracks in the street. I thought you should know. Here are some pictures.

Tom





Exhibit 148

Landslide in La Jolla

Hillside on Mount Soledad fails; 55 homes evacuated

By Mark Sauer
STAFF WRITER

October 4, 2007

A disaster foretold in July by cracks appearing in pavement and homes along Soledad Mountain Road struck suddenly yesterday morning when a massive slab of hillside broke loose, sending tons of dirt cascading toward streets below.

Two homes were destroyed, 15 others were left uninhabitable and three streets were rendered impassable in the La Jolla neighborhood built into the east side of Mount Soledad overlooking Interstate 5. In all, the city included 111 homes in the affected area.

No one was injured.

A bruising battle looms over what caused the massive slide and whether the city could have done something to prevent it. Litigation seems likely.

Panic struck about 9 a.m.

Ross Clark, 45, said he and his wife, Joyce, were standing in front of their home at 5748 Desert View Drive when they heard "the weirdest cracking sounds."

"Pine cones were falling off the trees all at once," Clark said. "The dogs were howling. The birds were going crazy. The ground started moving under our feet. There was a city engineer. He started yelling, 'Run, run!'"

"We saw a mountain coming down. It was rock, dirt, trees, road. It was 20 feet high. It was like a tidal wave. It crushed the house next to us. It crushed our wall that surrounds our pool."

Joyce Clark added: "We ran back in the house, grabbed our dogs, grabbed our son and drove. I have zero clothes."

Through the long day and night, fire crews, engineers and city leaders

- [Geologist says area 'a recognized hazard'](#)
- [Homeowners' policies don't cover landslides](#)



K.C. ALFRED / Union-Tribune

A landslide on La Jolla's Mount Soledad yesterday morning caused about 200 feet of pavement on Soledad Mountain Road to crumble. The slide-affected area encompassed 111 homes, and hillside streets have been closed indefinitely. Mayor Jerry Sanders planned to seek state and federal disaster-relief funds today.

worked the scene, issuing evacuation notices to residents of 55 homes on three streets: Desert View Drive and its alley (24), Soledad Mountain Road (10) and Palomino Circle (21).

About 200 feet of pavement on Soledad Mountain Road buckled, and the hillside streets are closed indefinitely.

A special meeting of the San Diego City Council is set for this morning, when Mayor Jerry Sanders will ask for authorization to seek state and federal disaster-relief funds.

Sanders arrived from Washington, D.C., and toured the site late last night, as emergency lights illuminated Soledad Mountain Road for utility crews and engineers scrambling to make repairs.

Some houses looked as if they had been dropped onto their foundations, like Dorothy's home in "The Wizard of Oz." A power pole was snapped like a pencil, and electric lines drooped into the edge of the hole in the middle of the street.

Earlier yesterday, firefighters helped 52 residents retrieve pets, medicine and other personal items from their homes in the danger zone. Although the Red Cross set up a temporary shelter, most evacuated residents found lodging on their own.

Gas leaks were not a major concern, but more than 400 neighborhood residents were without electricity through much of the day, with service restored to all but 25 by last night, said a spokeswoman for San Diego Gas & Electric Co.

Rob Hawk, the city's senior engineering geologist, said the "major slide event" was over, though the ground continued to move slightly.

City officials said they have long been aware of the instability of hillsides on Mount Soledad.

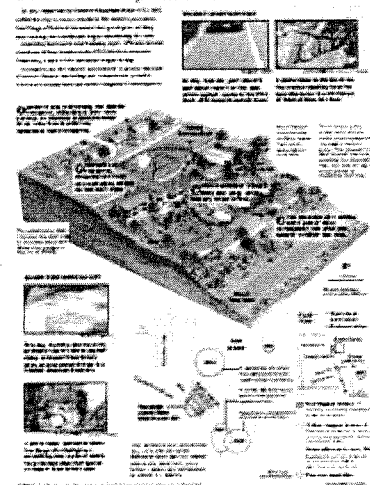
The subdivision along the east side of Soledad Mountain Road and Desert View Drive was initially graded for construction in the early 1960s, when the area's geology was poorly understood, Hawk said.

In December 1961, a landslide destroyed seven homes under construction; in 1990, new construction of a home caused a landslide on Desert View Drive; and a third slide in 1994, affecting the canyon below, was repaired by residents.

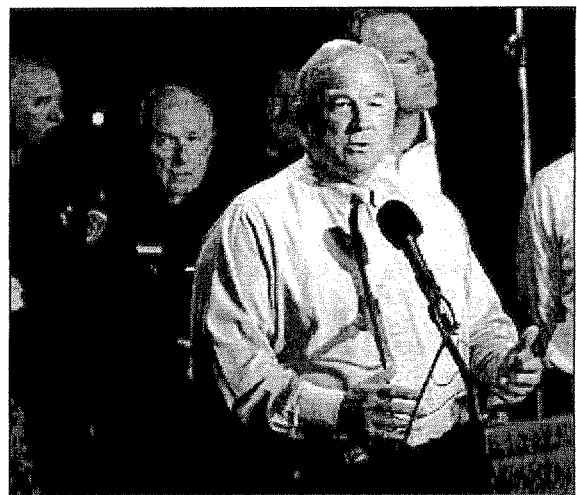
Crews had been testing the hillside since water and gas leaks beginning in July indicated stirrings in the earth. A water main beneath Soledad Mountain Road was replaced with an aboveground pipeline; speed limits were lowered to 25 mph to reduce vibration.

One worried homeowner hired his own geologist from American Geotechnical in Yorba Linda. The geologist warned Burke against spending another night there, and Greg Axten, who heads the company,

Landslide damages homes, forces evacuations



Landslide damages homes, forces evacuations (PDF)



EARNIE GRAFTON / Union-Tribune

"Really, what today and tonight are about is public safety," Mayor Jerry Sanders said. "After that, we'll be looking to see what the causes of this were."

said the home was clearly unsafe.

“What he found was a home which was literally, he felt, on the verge of a major-involvement landslide,” Axten said. “He found portions of his interior collapsed, including part of the fireplace.”

City engineers and geologists were so concerned that the hillside was about to go again that they hand-delivered warnings to four homes along Soledad Mountain Road on Tuesday night, telling residents to sleep elsewhere.

Then, as workers were drilling a shaft to see what was happening 100 feet below the surface, the hill gave way and “slid down like a book sliding off a tilting bookshelf,” as Hawk put it.

Homeowners whose houses were damaged or destroyed by yesterday's slide could be devastated financially, because insurance does not cover earth movement.

“Insurers do not want to cover the risk,” said Risa Salat-Kolm, senior staff counsel for the California Department of Insurance.

As city engineers, soils experts and public-safety officials worked the scene yesterday, everyone wondered the same thing: What exactly happened and why?

There was no shortage of speculation.

About 70 homeowners and neighbors took the opportunity last night to vent their frustration at a meeting called by City Attorney Michael Aguirre.

The neighbors' prevailing theory was that water coursing from leaks in buried pipes saturated the hillside to the point where it finally gave way.

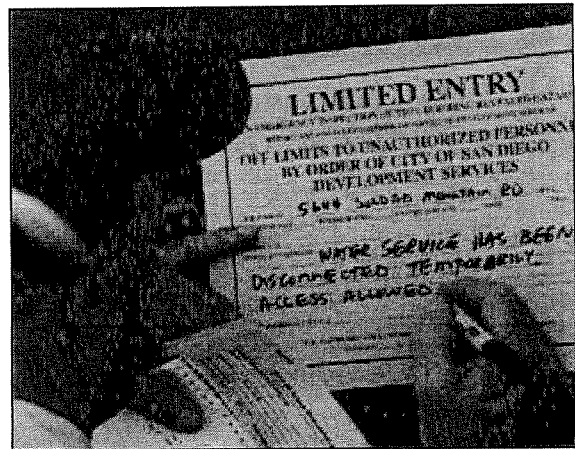
Alton McCormick, who said his house was “red-tagged,” meaning he is barred from entering, said a fire hydrant in front of his house streamed like a garden hose.

“I watched it for four days,” McCormick said.

Hawk acknowledged that city workers failed to realize a faulty valve was to blame for the hydrant leak. But he does not believe it was a significant factor in the slide.

Twice over the weekend, city workers came out and told him they could not fix it because of “Water Department complications,” said McCormick, who had just moved into the house in June. “All they had to do was go down the street and turn it off, and they wouldn't do it.”

Julie Tyor, who is in her 80s, said she was about to drive to her bridge game yesterday morning when she encountered a city worker



HOWARD LIPIN / Union-Tribune
A member of the city's Building Inspection Department posted a limited-entry sign yesterday on a home on Soledad Mountain Road in La Jolla.

telling her she already should have been evacuated.

Tyor said she was literally carried off her property because she could not navigate buckled Desert View Drive.

"This morning I was a millionaire, and now I'm sleeping in a strange bed," said Tyor, who did not know the whereabouts of her calico cat, Katie.

Aguirre vowed to conduct an investigation into what caused the slide and whether the city is at fault.

"What you are describing to me makes me very mad," he told the crowd. "We're not going to play any games; we're going to find out what happened."

Sanders declined to address Aguirre's comments last night.

"Really, what today and tonight are about is public safety," the mayor said as he inspected two houses destroyed on Soledad Mountain Road. "After that, we'll be looking to see what the causes of this were."

Ironically, the ground gave way yesterday beneath contractors who were running drilling rigs and installing high-tech devices to measure the hillside's movement. They had to scramble to safety.

"It moved a humongous amount, in the order of tens of feet," said Rupert Adams, supervising geologist for the Carlsbad firm Helenschmidt Geotechnical.

"Fortunately, we were able to pull out."

Adams spoke by cell phone from a Desert View Drive alley below the slide, where he said at least one house had been partly buried under tons of dirt.

His firm was hired to measure what was expected to be the gradual shifting of the hillside and to figure out how to fix it. The luxury of time has now vanished.

Pat Abbott, a retired geological sciences professor at San Diego State University, said nature – not man – should be blamed for the slide.

Abbott said Mount Soledad was formed when mud sediment layers on the ocean floor were "squeezed up" by the Rose Canyon fault, leaving weak rock layers at an incline.

"It's a geologically bad site and should not have been built on to begin with," he said.

Adriana King, 44, bought her newly built, \$1.8 million house in February. It is about five doors from one of the houses destroyed on Soledad Mountain Road. She said she was aware of natural hazards in the area but did not consider them serious enough to cancel the deal.



EARNIE GRAFTON / Union-Tribune
"Really, what today and tonight are about is public safety," Mayor Jerry Sanders said. "After that, we'll be looking to see what the causes of this were."

“There was nothing that said this mountain is shifting,” said King, who is married and has three school-age children. “It definitely said we’re in a seismic zone, but, hey, we know California is in a seismic zone.”

“If the whole mountain goes, there goes my investment.”

At 9 a.m., a cop pounded on Ed Thomas' door. He had to get out – now!

Thomas grabbed his dog and guinea pig and fled to a Red Cross station at nearby Kate O. Sessions Memorial Park. “I think our property values have just declined substantially,” the electrician said.

Others were hopeful that their houses were OK, that the evacuation was just a necessary precaution.

Many went to the park to pick up their pets, many of which had been rescued by the San Diego County Department of Animal Services.

“Most are very scared,” field officer Robin Sellers said of the dogs she encountered.

“They know something is going on. They're hearing all kinds of noises they don't normally hear.”

Staff writers Debbi Farr Baker, Chet Barfield, Gerry Braun, David E. Graham, Greg Gross, Karen Kucher, Emmet Pierce, Terry Rodgers, Roger Showley, Jeanette Steele, Michael Stetz, Jennifer Vigil and Lori Weisberg and Library Manager Merrie Monteagudo contributed to this report.

■ Mark Sauer: (619) 293-2227; mark.sauer@uniontrib.com

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Find this article at:

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Exhibit 149

For homeowners on hillside, grim realities begin setting in

By Alex Roth
STAFF WRITER

October 5, 2007

Less than four months ago, they bought their dream home on Mount Soledad, a \$1 million three-bedroom house on Desert View Drive with a gorgeous hillside view of Clairemont unfolding in the flatlands below.

Alton and Erinn McCormick say nobody warned them of landslide dangers. They noticed a crack running along the floor of the house, but a repairman assured them it was nothing to worry about.

Then, in August, the street in front of their house began to buckle. By September, the pavement was so deformed that they had to walk carefully to avoid tripping. On Friday, a fire hydrant burst, flooding the street with water for several days.

Then, on Wednesday morning – catastrophe. On the hillside above, the earth gave way, sending an avalanche of dirt and debris crashing down on the McCormicks' home. The couple and their three daughters escaped with nothing but a few stuffed animals.

"It's toast," said Alton McCormick, 40, who works for the federal government, when asked whether his buried house could be salvaged.

The McCormicks and their neighbors spent yesterday coping with a series of grim realities. They've been told their insurance probably won't cover their losses. Instead of living in one of San Diego's most exclusive ZIP codes, they're now sleeping on relatives' couches.

Even those Mount Soledad residents whose properties escaped damage are sure to sleep less comfortably now that the hillside's fickle personality has been exposed. Some fear their property values have collapsed as dramatically as the soil beneath Soledad Mountain Road.

The home of Mohammad Ali Afshar, who lives two doors down from the McCormicks, escaped any physical damage. Nonetheless, Afshar figures his home of 13 years lost more than 50 percent of its value in 48 hours.

The timing couldn't be worse. Afshar, who owns a dental lab, was diagnosed with prostate cancer several months ago. He was planning to sell his house, move into a smaller place and eliminate some



K.C. ALFRED / Union-Tribune
Ross Clark, 45, retrieved some belongings from the Desert View Drive home he shares with his wife, Joyce. As of yesterday, they had not been allowed to move back in after the Mount Soledad landslide damaged a wall of the house as well as the pool.

debt.

That plan disintegrated when his shower was interrupted Wednesday morning by a knock on his door. City officials had come to inform him that the hillside was in danger of collapsing at any minute. Naked except for a towel wrapped around his waist, Afshar asked for a half-hour to collect some belongings.

"No, you have one minute," they responded. "Get out."

He threw on some clothes and did as he was told.

Yesterday, police allowed Afshar into his house to get more clothes and some valuables, including family photos. He's now living with his daughter in Coronado.

Ross Clark, 45, a life coach who lives next door to the McCormicks, focused his anger on the fire hydrant that had been spewing water from Friday until Monday. He's convinced the nonstop flood destabilized the hillside.

"Look at that!" Clark said, pointing to a cell-phone photo he took several days ago. "That's water and mud coming out of the fire hydrant for 4½ days. The ground was soaked. We were calling, calling, calling and they never fixed it."

City officials have acknowledged not moving fast enough to fix the hydrant but say the leak wasn't likely a factor in causing the landslide.

The slide damaged a wall of Clark's house and also his pool. He and his wife, Joyce, aren't sure what they might have to do to make sure their property is stable. As of yesterday afternoon, they hadn't been allowed to move back in.

"We'll have to rent something or move in with relatives," said Joyce Clark, a visual designer. "We're taking it one step at a time."

The McCormicks, meanwhile, spent the day talking to lawyers and insurance agents. They had moved to Mount Soledad from Albuquerque with the idea of living a happy life in a beautiful neighborhood in America's Finest City.

Yesterday morning, they would have settled for being allowed to retrieve some underwear from their earth-covered house.

"Anything we can get is more than we have," Erinn McCormick said.

■ Alex Roth: (619) 542-4558; alex.roth@uniontrib.com

[»Next Story»](#)

Find this article at:

http://www.signonsandiego.com/uniontrib/20071005/news_1n5coping.html

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Exhibit 150

Sewer/Water Infrastructure Management

Actions



Work Order Data Entry

SR #: 3017312	Wof: 1	Priority: 1	Radio #: 1934	Wtr/Swr: W	WO Stat: ASN	WO Recd Dt:	Orig Prob Cd: CUST
Prob Cd / Primary Ind: CUST Y							Field Bk Pg/Grid: C12S
Street #: 5700	Frac:	Dir:	Street Name: SOLEDAD MTN	Sfx: RD	Suite#: SD	Juris: X St: PALM CANYON RD	Thomas Bros Pg: 1248A2
Inter:							Service Area: 2
Loc Desc: PLS ASAP SEND CREW TO PULL WTR LINES & HYDRANT							ES Service Area: W
Job Desc:							Plant Service Area: MI
Special Inst:							Assign Dt: 10/03/07 09:15
							WO Gen Dt: 10/03/07 09:00

USA#:	Exp Dt:	Fac Type:	Fac Seq#:	Request: KATHY/SFPD	Ph#: 619
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Work Cd: ESINV	Action Cd:	Service Request Comments:
ST: 00/00/00 00:00	End: 00/00/00 00:00	JO #: Emp: Hic:

WO Comments: Page 1 of 1	
Creation Dt/Tm:	
Upd Dt/Tm:	

Completed by Radio #:	Cancel:	Total Crew Hours:
Referral: Priority:	Ref to Radio:	Work Code:
Fac Type:	Fac Seq#:	
Job Desc:		

Last Update Dt: 10/3/07 9:15	Last Update ID: D25	Last Batch Update Dt:	Last Batch Update ID:
WO Completed Dt:	Completed By:		

Please Wait... Swim is currently sending this screen to your printer.

Exhibit 151

Sewer/Water Infrastructure Management

Actions



Work Order Data Entry

SR #: 3017312	Wof: 2	Priority: 1	Radio #: 1630	Wtr/Swr: W	WO Stat: UNA	WO Recd Dt:	Orig Prob Cd: CUST
Prob Cd / Primary Ind: CUST Y							Field Bk Pg/GrId: C12S
Street #	Frac	Dir	Street Name	Sfx	Suite#	Juris	Data Steward:
5700			SOLEDAD MTN	RD		SD	X St: PALM CANYON RD
Inter:							Thomas Bros Pg: 124BA2
Loc Desc: PLS ASAP SEND CREW TO PULL WTR LINES & HYDRANT							Service Area: 2
Job Desc:							ES Service Area: W
Special Inst:							Plant Service Area: MI
							Assign Dt:
							WO Gen Dt: 10/03/07 09:14

USA:	Exp Dt:	Fac Typ:	Fac Seq:	Request: KATHY/SFPD	Ph#: 619
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Work Cd	Action Cd	Service Request Comments			
ESINV					
ST: 00/00/00 00:00	End: 00/00/00 00:00	JO #:	Emp:	Hir:	

WO Comments: Page 1 of 1	
Creation Dt/Tm:	
Upd Dt/Tm:	

Completed by Radio:	Cancel:	Total Crew Hour:
Referral	Priority:	Radio Radio:
Work Code:	Fac Type:	Fac Seq:
Job Desc:		

Last Update Dt: 10/30/07 9:15	Last Update ID: 025	Last Batch Update Dt:	Last Batch Update ID:
WO Completed Dt:	Completed By:		

Please Wait.... Swim is currently sending this screen to your printer.

Exhibit 152

Sewer/Water Infrastructure Management

Actions



Work Order Data Entry

SR #: 3017312	Wof: 3	Priority: 1	Radio #: 1619	Wtr/Swr: W	WO Stat: ASN	WO Recd Dt:	Orig Prob Cd: CUST
Prob Cd / Primary Ind: CUST Y							Field Bk Pg/Grid: C12S
Street #: 5700	Frac:	Dir:	Street Name: SOLEDAD MTN	Sfx: RD	Suite#:	Juris: SD	Thomas Bros Pg: 1246A2
X St: PALM CANYON RD							Service Area: 2
Inter:							ES Service Area: W
Loc Desc: PLS ASAP SEND CREW TO PULL WTR LINES & HYDRANT							Plant Service Area: MI
Job Desc: 1619 WILL INVESTIGATE A POSSIBLE MAIN BREAK ON 5700 SOLEDAD MTN.RD.							Assign Dt: 10/03/07 09:29
Special Inst:							WO Gen Dt: 10/03/07 09:24

USAR:	Exp Dt:	Fac Typ:	Fac Seq:	Request: KATHY/SFPD	Ph#: 619
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Work Cd: INV	Action Cd:	Service Request Comments			
ST: 00/00/00 00:00	End: 00/00/00 00:00	JO #:	Emp:	Hrs:	

WO Comments: Page 1 of 1	
Creation Dt/Tm:	
Upd Dt/Tm:	

Completed by Radio:	Cancel:	Total Crew Hours:
Referral Priority:	Ref to Radio:	Work Code:
Fac Type:	Fac Seq:	
Job Desc:		

Last Update Dt: 10/3/07 9:29	Last Update ID: ESCADA	Last Batch Update Dt:	Last Batch Update ID:
WO Completed Dt:	Completed By:		

Please Wait... Swim is currently sending this screen to your printer.

Start Sewer/Water I...

Exhibit 153

Sewer/Water Infrastructure Management

Actions



Work Order Data Entry

SR #:	3017312	WO#:	4	Priority:	1	Radio #:	1874	Wtr/Swr:	W	WO Stat:	ASN	WO Recd Dt:		Orig Prob Cd:	CUST
Prob Cd / Primary Ind: CUST Y														Field Bk Pg/Grid:	C12S
Street #	Frac	Dir	Street Name			Sfx	Suite#	Juris	Data Steward:			Thomas Bros Pg:			1248A2
5700			SOLEDAD MTN			RD		SD	X St: PALM CANYON RD			Service Area:			2
Inter:														ES Service Area:	W
Loc Desc: PLS ASAP SEND CREW TO PULL WTR LINES & HYDRANT														Plant Service Area:	MI
Job Desc:														Assign Dt:	10/03/07 09:44
Special Inst:														WO Gen Dt:	10/03/07 09:25

USA#:		Exp Dt:		Fac Typ:		Fac Seq#:		Request:	KATHY/SFPD	Ph#:	619
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Work Cd	Action Cd	Service Request Comments							
INV									
ST:	00/00/00 00:00	End:	00/00/00 00:00	JO #:		Emp:		Hrs:	

WO Comments:	Page 1 of 1
Creation Dt/Tm:	
Mod Dt/Tm:	

Completed by Radio#:		Cancel:		Total Crew Hours:	
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Referral Priority:		Ref to Radio#:		Work Code:		Fac Type:		Fac Seq #:	
Job Desc:									

Last Update Dt:	10/3/07	Last Update ID:	1025	Last Batch Update Dt:		Last Batch Update ID:	
WO Completed Dt:		Completed By:					

Please Wait... Swim is currently sending this screen to your printer.

SR #

3017312

Creation Dt/Tm

10/03/07 09:33

Last Update Dt / ID

10/03/07 09:33 D25

SR Comments

R 1603, PAGED 1874...SD

Page 1 of 1

3017312

10/03/07 09:09

10/03/07 09:09 D25

SR Comments

ALSO PAGED 1630 (OCA 1994)....SD

Page 1 of 1

3017312

10/03/07 09:08

10/03/07 09:08 D25

SR Comments

PAGED 1603...SD

Page 1 of 1

3017312

10/03/07 09:03

10/03/07 09:04 ROG

SR Comments

NOTE: THIS IS WHERE LAND IS SINKING NEED CREWS ASAP

Page 1 of 1

Exhibit 154

From: Jim Barrett
To: Haas, Richard
Date: 10/3/2007 11:17:42 PM
Subject: ATTORNEY INVOLVEMENT ON SOLEDAD

Rich - I looked through all my archived email and the earliest email I could find that involved Palmucci was one from Rob on 8/16 indicating he would forward an email to Palmucci (attached)... after that, the next one is one I think you already have (9/14, also attached).

For meetings, the first I could find was 8/15 at 1130 that included Tom Zeleny (but I don't think he actually showed... I believe it was Palmucci and Mercer). Then I show one at 1000 on Monday, 9/17 that included Palmucci. And Finally, we had the one this week, 0800, Monday, 10/1.

See you at 615, jim

Jim Barrett, P.E.
Director, Water Department
City of San Diego
600 "B" Street, Suite 1300, MS 913
San Diego, CA 92101-4588
O: 619.533.7555
F: 619.533.7593
jbarrett@sandiego.gov

CC: Hawk, Rob

Exhibit 155

Transcript of Aguirre 10:28 a.m. news conference on 3 October 2007

Aguirre: Three weeks ago there was an incident up here in which water department and water crews began to work in and around the area that, in which there has been this slide.

We have geologists that are looking at the situation right now, assessing exactly what damage has occurred and what additional damage is likely to occur.

Some of the pole have begun to give way in the area. But, we are informed by the best information that we can receive right now that there is not going to be any additional slide in the area. That is no guarantee. But that is what we are receiving. That is what we are being told. The homeowners have been evacuated both in and around where the cave in was, below the cave in as well.

The City previously had had to intervene and actually have purchased some homes in and round this area because of similar problems. So, this is not a new problem. This is something that has been around for some time. The city is bringing in a whole variety of different experts to further asses the situation.

We don't believe that there's an immediate threat to the safety and health of any other residents. SPG&E is here, and they're taking control of the power lines and shutting down the power. They're in the process of doing that. They've done that to some. Not all the power has left the cables yet. So there's still a high risk area with regard to that. The gas is being shut off. Although, there is still some gas leakage in the area. But the gas is being shut off.

And I know that the mayor's office has -- Mr. Goldstone, as I understand it, will be up here, and will be providing additional information. I have city attorney investigators on both sides of the sinkhole right now gathering information to make sure that we have all the information that is available and that we will make available to you.

The real issue, though, is that it doesn't appear to be any additional cracking, at least at this point. This is a dynamic situation, so we're not able to say for certain that it won't become more of a problem. But we are, obviously, actively on top of it. As soon as we receive any additional information, that information will be provided to you on an ongoing basis.

We're trying to -- from the city's perspective, we're trying to play a little catch-up here with the mayor being gone and the mayor's staff, I think, is trying to get over here. But as I said, we have plenty of people here. There's no immediate danger to anyone else. All parties have been evacuated. Whatever ongoing danger there is, is being assessed and reduced from the gas and electricity sources and that's where we are.

No. I'm just saying that I want you to have all the information that I have received. Three

weeks ago, approximately, there was some incident up here. The work crews have been here, working. I've been told this by the residents. I'm passing on that information. Whatever information I receive, I will make sure that that information is passed on to you, so that you have all the information I do.

The nature of the work was water repair. There appeared to be some leakage in some of the pipes. One of the sources of information has told us that there were -- there was piping that was run into some of the homes. So, as I said, this is not a new problem for this area. So we know that. We know that there have been similar situations earlier, much earlier. In fact, we can provide and will provide you pictures of similar situations that took place in the 1960s.

So as I say, you know, give us a chance to get caught up here, and I know that the mayor's office will be providing information to you, that Mr. Goldstone will be here shortly. But I have -- as I said, numerous city investigators are out, gathering information. The moment anything material or important we can add to the story for you, we'll provide that. And if you have any questions for us, if you provide those to us, we'll try to run that down until we get the city's position firmly stabilized.

The city has had to purchase land from homeowners based on similar problems that we have in the past, in this area. Yes. Well, in the 1960's there was a serious cave in, in the 1960s. I've seen pictures of that and it was much worse than what we are seeing here. But, as you might recall, that shortly after Mayor Sanders was elected, there was a house actually that we had to take over because of a similar problem. I think that we had to purchase four or five homes, as I understand it.

The drilling rigs are being used to see if there are any additional problems and to be on standby to see if there is any need for reinforcement or anything of that sort.

They're there, as I said, they are going to be organizing and staging whatever possible equipment we are going to need so we can actively manage the situation.

I really don't have anything else important that I can tell you. I know that Mr. Goldstone is on his way. And we will keep you all as informed as we can.

Exhibit 156

Transcript of Fred Sainz statement to news media on 3 October 2007

I just heard a station say that because the Mayor was out of town, Mr. Aguirre was representing the City. That is inaccurate. The Mayor is in Washington D.C. Jay Goldstone will be representing the Mayor. The Mayor will be getting off a plane this afternoon and coming directly to the site.

Exhibit 157

Transcript of Jay Goldstone, chief operating officer for the City, at 10:50 a.m. on 3 October 2007

Good morning. My name is Jay Goldstone, the chief operating officer for the City...

The Mayor is in Washington D.C. on City business and will return this evening and I believe will be meeting with you. We have been in contact with him on multiple occasions this morning and have provided him with updated information and he had provided us with direction.

I want to begin by assuring all residents affected that the City is doing everything possible to stabilize the situation and safeguard their homes. We share their concerns and want them to know that we will work around the clock to do everything we possibly can.

The City has acted quickly and responsibly since this matter came to our attention. We have distributed a fact sheet with the history of this issue. This is a very quickly evolving situation.

The reasons for the rapid movement of the soil are not fully known as of this moment other than that gravity is pulling the soil down the hill. There is no evidence that the City's utility – such as water or wastewater – has contributed to the situation.

Using his emergency contracting powers, the mayor has authorized us to hire a geotechnical firm to advise us on the situation. Yesterday, the firm commenced its work on the site and found that the soil movement has accelerated quickly.

We are here this morning, have invited you, to bring you up to date on the conditions that stretch along Soledad Mountain Road, Desert View Alley and roadway below us.

This morning, the City has determined that the soil movement in this area has accelerated. City staff will be working with our consultant to determine the range or our options for stabilizing the soil in this area.

Our office has been in contact with Congressman Bilbray's office this morning and will do everything possible to obtain federal assistance including declaring a state of emergency, if appropriate. We are also working with CalTrans.

Rob [Hawk] will be going into greater detail as to what has been happening over the past few days and what to expect.

I want to end by expressing our concerns for the family's affected by this and assure them – and all residents – that we will be working to do everything possible to safeguard the situation.

Exhibit 158

More Metro news

One La Jolla home destroyed, several damaged in Mt. Soledad slide

By Karen Kucher

UNION-TRIBUNE BREAKING NEWS TEAM

and Mark Sauer and Chet Barfield

UNION-TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

2:47 p.m. October 3, 2007

SAN DIEGO – A La Jolla hillside collapsed Wednesday morning, buckling a three-lane road, destroying one home and prompting evacuation of nearly two dozen others.

The slide, which occurred shortly before 9 a.m. on Mount Soledad, knocked down power lines and caused a minor gas leak. Police officers and firefighters went door-to-door evacuating residents, finding just a handful at home.

No injuries were reported, but officials worried throughout the day about continuing slippage.

At an afternoon news conference, Rob Hawk, the city's senior engineering geologist and a deputy city engineer, said the "major slide event" had already happened, though the earth may continue to move slightly.

Houses damaged or destroyed can be rebuilt, Hawk said, "but first we'll have to look at what we need to do to make them safe and stable."

Authorities said they had red-tagged nine homes, meaning no one is allowed to enter, and yellow-tagged eight others, where residents can return to gather things, such as medicine and other necessities, but cannot stay.

City officials said they had been monitoring the area for weeks because of geological instability, including cracked paving on Soledad Mountain Road that residents first reported in July.

In recent weeks, temporary above-ground water lines were installed and emergency crews were put on alert.

The area affected is on the east side of Soledad Mountain Road, between Desert View Drive and Palomino Circle, a neighborhood where home values exceed \$1 million.

City officials said they evacuated 52 people: 18 from 10 houses on Desert View Drive, nine from five houses on Soledad Mountain Road and 25 from 15 houses on Palomino Circle.

They urged any displaced residents to go to Kate Sessions Park, on Lamont Street and Soledad Mountain Road in Pacific Beach, where the Red Cross was setting up an evacuation center. The agency also had arranged with county animal control officials to find homes for any displaced pets.

On Tuesday night, city officials delivered letters to four residences in the 5600 and 5700 block of Soledad Mountain Road and warned residents not to sleep in their homes "effective immediately" because of soil instability.

"As you are aware, the city of San Diego has been investigating what appears to be natural instability of soils under city property near your home," Hawk said in the letter.

The landslide cracked and buckled a 200-foot stretch of Soledad Mountain Road, which was closed indefinitely from Palomino Circle on the north to Desert View Drive on the south. (The two streets form one street that loops off of and runs downhill from Soledad Mountain Road.)

An estimated 411 customers were without electrical power much of the afternoon, although power was restored to all but 25 later in the day, according to SDG&E. Three power poles were left leaning by the shifting ground. One natural-gas line was leaking but was being shut off, the utility said.

Gas was shut off in the affected area, and water and sewer service was shut off for 14 homes, city officials said.

Ross Clark, whose home on Desert View Drive was one of at least four directly downhill from the shifting hillside, said the slide occurred shortly before 9 a.m.

"I heard the fence starting to crack. I heard a tree coming down. We grabbed the dogs and ran," he said, adding that he and his wife returned a short time later.

"The road is blocked by about 25 feet of dirt," he said at the time. "It's still shifting."

Clark said he was "looking at the mountain going into my pool and the neighbor's house."

The ground gave way beneath contractors who were manning drilling rigs and installing high-tech devices to measure the hillside's movement and they had to scramble to safety.

"It moved a humongous amount, in the order of tens of feet," said Rupert Adams, supervising geologist for the Carlsbad firm Helenschmidt Geotechnical.

"Fortunately we were able to pull out."

Adams spoke by cell phone from a Desert View Drive alley below the slide, where he said at least one house had been partly buried under tons of dirt.

His firm was hired to measure what was expected to be the gradual shifting of the hillside and to figure out how to fix it. The luxury of time has now vanished.

Firefighters, police converge

About 100 firefighters and 50 police officers converged on the neighborhood after the collapse, assisting in the evacuation.

"Most homes they went to, no one was home," said Maurice Luque, a spokesman with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department.

A water tender and fire engines were brought to the area in case a fire broke out while water to the neighborhood was cut off, Luque said.

At one point a police helicopter circled overhead, ordering residents to evacuate: "If you can hear this, you need to prepare to evacuate."

Joseph Kazanchi said his parents' home on Soledad Mountain Road was one of the four homes where residents were warned to evacuate Tuesday night. He said he and his sister packed up some of the family's possessions and parked cars in different locations away from the home.

Susan Kazanchi was at the home Wednesday morning when the ground began to move.

"The house fell. The neighbors' fell. The street fell," Susan Kazanchi said. She said police officers moved her away from the home.

Joseph Kazanchi said his parents bought the house in the 1980s and had recently renovated it. They were on a trip to Turkey but were already making plans to come home after hearing about what happened.

He said he and his sister are checking every two hours to see when they will be allowed back into the home.

The hillside has been slowly slipping for years due to the natural instability of the soil, with slide incidents there dating to the 1960s.

But the slippage accelerated in recent months, Hawk said, causing cracks in streets, alleyways and water lines. He noted the area was developed about 50 years ago.

Hawk said such factors as water seepage from pipes or past storm damage do not appear to have played a role in the collapse.

"This looks like a geology slide," Hawk said.

As a precaution, Hawk said, water crews in recent weeks removed water lines from beneath Soledad Mountain Road, replacing them with temporary lines atop the pavement.

But city officials said they're far from through with their investigation.

"We don't know what is causing this slide," said Jay Goldstone, San Diego's chief operating officer.

Goldstone also said it was "extremely premature" to talk about whether the city will purchase houses in the neighborhood because of the slide.

Mayor in Washington

Mayor Jerry Sanders was traveling back from Washington. He began receiving information about the situation early Wednesday after morning talks with Sen. Dianne Feinstein and environmental regulators in the nation's capital.

Sanders, reached by phone as he waited for his evening flight back to San Diego, said he had been in nearly constant contact since. He was set to immediately go to La Jolla after he landed at Lindbergh Field this evening.

City officials have discussed options for federal aid with Rep. Brian Bilbray, R-Carlsbad and Sen. Barbara Boxer, Sanders said. The mayor also has a conference call scheduled for Thursday with Department of Transportation officials.

Sanders said he was told late Tuesday that nearby homes would have to be "red-tagged" Wednesday –

meaning experts had determined they could no longer be inhabited.

He refused to speculate on the cause of the slide and said it was improper for anyone else to do so.

A mayoral spokesman said earlier that City Attorney Michael Aguirre gave out false information in midmorning comments to reporters. The spokesman said Aguirre had not had any contact with sewer, water or engineering officials before he discussed the situation with reporters.

Moments before a scheduled 10:30 a.m. news conference, Aguirre stepped before microphones and said there was no immediate threat from the slide. He also said he had his office's investigators looking into the collapse and that water crews had been working in the area in recent weeks.

Sanders said it would be "irresponsible for any city official to make an estimate on what caused it."

"That's what an investigation will show as we start moving through it," the mayor said, adding that his first concern was preventing further harm.

"This is a public safety issue and we want to make sure we're doing everything we can to protect public safety and public structures," he said.

Residents said they wondered if city water line leaks caused – or at least worsened – the slide, but San Diego's water director, Jim Barrett, said that was highly doubtful.

"We did have a leak up that area about two weeks ago, three weeks ago. It was a service (line) leak. There wasn't a lot of water involved," he said. "That water would have been superficial.

"It looks like the slip plane is much deeper in the ground, and it would have taken a larger amount of water to percolate down that far to actually contribute."

Barrett cautioned, however, that his assessment was preliminary, as the city's investigation is continuing.

Aguirre later announced he had scheduled a community forum for 6 p.m. Wednesday at the La Jolla Recreation Center to discuss the collapse and give residents a chance to ask questions of representatives of his office.

Weather does not appear to be involved in the slide, said Jim Purpura, meteorologist in charge at the National Weather Service's Rancho Bernardo office. It's been 2½ years since a major rainstorm hit the area.

A strong storm could worsen conditions at the slide, but Purpura said there's no sign of any significant rain in the near future.

Geologist: Nature to blame

Pat Abbott, a retired geological sciences professor at San Diego State University, said nature – not man – should be blamed for the slide.

Abbott said Mt. Soledad was formed when mud sediment layers on the ocean floor were "squeezed up" by the Rose Canyon fault, leaving weak rock layers at an incline.

"Gravity pulling on the incline is pulling down masses of earth and those masses of earth have houses on top of them," Abbott said. "It's a geologically bad site and should not have been built on to begin with.

"The fundamental fault is nature," he said. "It is not the city. It is not a trench. . . . The water pipes that are breaking are breaking because bad earth is moving under gravity, under natural conditions.

"It's fundamentally houses built on a bad site."

In fact, the area experienced a collapse in 1961 when seven homes under construction were destroyed.

In the hours after Wednesday morning's collapse, Soledad Mountain Road was swamped with emergency crews, utility workers and news media.

Rosemary and George Fraunces, who have lived on the street since 1994, were headed to their home when they found police officers blocking the street.

"Nobody has talked to us at all," said Rosemary Fraunces, standing in her driveway about 1½ blocks from the slide. "I didn't know anything about this until I read about it in the paper."

Fraunces said she was concerned for the residents who lived in the slide area. "I think the land we are on is all right," she said. "If we need to leave, we will."

Lillie Nelson said she was living in the area when the slide occurred in 1961.

"I went through all this in 1961. I remember it like it was yesterday," Nelson said.

"I always knew it was going to happen again."

■ Staff writers Jennifer Vigil, Terry Rodgers, Robert Krier, Debbi Farr Baker and Greg Gross contributed to this report.

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